



Meeting note

Project name	Viking CCS Pipeline
File reference	EN070008
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	21 March 2023
Meeting with	Chrysaor Production (UK) Limited
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update Meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed, and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Update to the Proposed Development

Chrysaor Production (UK) Limited (“The Applicant”) confirmed that it has made good progress with the development and that there had been no change to the project’s objectives. The Applicant did add that the facility could potentially store up to ten million tonnes of CO₂ annually by 2030 and this could increase up to fifteen million tonnes of CO₂ annually by 2035. This is to help the UK government meet its goal for CO₂ storage.

The Inspectorate enquired as to whether further development would be necessary in the future to address the larger capacity. The Applicant explained that the pipeline has the capacity to transport eighteen million tonnes of CO₂ and so should not require expansion at a later date.

The Applicant shared the route of the proposed pipeline, demonstrating that the Development Consent Order (DCO) will include land up to Mean Low Water Springs at Theddlethorpe and did not include development beyond this point. The Applicant indicated that it has been working with statutory bodies and local councils which the pipeline will be running through directly; this includes North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, West Lindsey, with most of the proposed pipeline running through East Lindsey District Council. The Applicant also confirmed that it had also been liaising with Lincolnshire County Council.

The Applicant shared its current timeline of key dates with the Inspectorate, including the DCO application submission, which is currently due in summer 2023. The Applicant stated it is now aiming to start construction in 2025 and become operational by 2027.

The Applicant stated that safety has been its main priority throughout the design process and route selection as well as several other key design considerations. The applicant advised that the design has now been fixed for use in the environmental impact assessment.

Update on Environmental Surveys and Assessments

The Applicant shared that it is currently conducting several surveys, some of which have been concluded.

The Applicant updated on key actions it has taken including meetings held with the key stakeholders (Local Planning Authorities [LPA] and the LPA specialists, Natural England [NE], Environmental Agency [EA], Historic England [HE] and National Highways) to help inform an agreed approach to the environmental surveys and assessments, and an agreement with NE for a draft District Level Licence for Great Crested Newts.

The Inspectorate asked if the Local Authorities (LA) were requesting additional survey work to be completed in relation to the archaeology aspect of the development. The Applicant confirmed that it had agreed with the LAs to carry out more targeted surveys where needed. It was also mentioned that the Trial Trenching survey is now being planned.

Summary of the Statutory Consultation.

The Applicant stated that the Statutory Consultation has now been completed. This took place between 22 November 2022 to 24 January 2023 (running for 9 weeks).

The Applicant specified that around 21,000 postcards had been sent to properties within the consultation zone, over 100 posters placed along the route of the proposed pipeline, 200 letters sent to statutory bodies and non-statutory bodies, and digital advertising was used following the Christmas period. Other documentation about the project was also provided in the form of a consultation brochure, the non-statutory consultation report, an FAQ document, maps, response forms, and the Statement of Community Consultation. The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and its non-technical summary were made available to the public. Hard copies of the documentation were also made available at deposit points and accessible electronically on the Applicant's website. Physical consultation events were held in 7 locations with the addition of a virtual consultation room and webinar. The Applicant confirmed that there were 237 attendees in total across all the events with most of the feedback being positive. The Inspectorate was informed that there were 222 pieces of feedback received with the bulk suggesting support for the project. It was explained that most of the concerns addressed issues regarding local land where the development will be close to private land with some common themes involving the environmental impacts, biodiversity and construction.

The Applicant explained that changes were being made to the scheme in response to the feedback received. The Applicant confirmed that it will be providing people with the opportunity to comment on the changes and will explain these in the Consultation Report (CR). The Applicant confirmed that it will be writing to all prescribed and selected non-prescribed bodies regarding the alterations and a further targeted consultation will be undertaken shortly.

Summary of any subsequent meetings with stakeholders / landowners following the Statutory Consultation

The Inspectorate advised that the Applicant should ensure it is clear why a targeted consultation was appropriate for the changes being made, and to ensure this is covered in the Consultation Report in due course.

The Applicant also mentioned that LAs have been very supportive throughout the process of the project.

AOB

The Applicant confirmed that it has been successful in obtaining the necessary land access to date and that the team has a good working relationship with land agents and landowners.

The Inspectorate asked if there is any Crown Land included within the Order Limits. The Applicant explained there were 2 areas of Crown Land and discussions were underway with the Crown Estate.

The applicant outlined that most of the land would require temporary acquisition with permanent acquisition for the pipeline necessary in approximately 4 areas.

The Applicant enquired about submitting draft documents to the Inspectorate in relation to timescales and specific documents which should be included. The Inspectorate advised that advance notice is necessary as to when the Applicant intended to submit the documents and that six to eight weeks would be needed for The Inspectorate to produce any feedback. It was also suggested that the Applicant should focus the review on any novel drafting or any specific advice the Applicant was seeking on specific documents. The Inspectorate confirmed that there was no fee payable for review of draft documents.